

We are writing this letter in regards to the proposed bill to Eliminate Farmers Tax and Diesel Fuel Exemptions.

We are both originally from Connecticut and have been involved in Agriculture our entire Lives. As a matter of fact my wife Ann's family has a very long history of Agriculture in the state, The Killam Farm in Glastonbury and Megson Farm in Hebron. I have worked for Arbor Acres, which is now a part of "The Aviagen Group" for more than 31 years. Arbor Acres a poultry company was originally founded in Glastonbury and since has moved down South.

We left Connecticut from 1980-2005 and farmed in Mississippi and Georgia while I was also employed for Arbor Acres. In 2005 we returned to Connecticut because my father-in-law, Harry K. Megson's health was failing and the family wanted to keep the farm alive (not developed) and in the family. We sold our farm in Georgia and moved back to Briar Ridge Farm in Amston Connecticut.

My father-in-law's health had deteriorated significantly over time so his ability to maintain the farm was limited and the condition of the farm had also deteriorated. Since our return to CT we have had to invest a great deal money and labor into the farm, clearing land, building new fences, adding watering facilities and heavy use areas to protect natural resources, and constructed barns and buildings. This expense along with the overall expense of fuel and economic conditions make it very difficult for the small farmer to survive.

We have experienced numerous challenges since moving back to Connecticut and sometime feel that the small farm is an unwanted enterprise in the state. If this bill passes I am afraid it will be the final chapter of "Survival of the Connecticut Farmer".

Please consider supporting the Farmers Tax and Diesel Exempt Bill if there is any real desire to keep Connecticut's Agricultural Heritage alive.

Thank you for your consideration,

The entire Baribault Family of  
Briar Ridge Farm  
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